

Message Text

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THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF SECSTATE 000617 ACTION
ATHENS BONN COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE HELSINKI LONDON OSLO
MOSCOW PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM INFO CANBERRA OTTAWA TOKYO
02 JANUARY 1975. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, XG, UR, AS, CA, JA

SUBJECT: MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION
(IMCO) WILL SPONSOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IN
LONDON APRIL 23 - MAY 9 TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR A MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITE SYSTEM (INMARSAT). IN 1972, IMCO, CITING
NEED FOR IMPROVED MARITIME TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES,
ESTABLISHED PANEL OF EXPERTS (POE) TO EXAMINE QUESTION
AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS. AS RESULT OF FIVE MEETINGS
IN ENSUING TWO AND HALF YEAR PERIOD, POE RECOMMENDED
ESTABLISHMENT OF INMARSAT. U.S. AND ADDRESSEE POST
GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS (OTHER GOVERNMENTS
ATTENDED BUT PLAYED LESSER ROLE). IN POE MEETINGS
U.S. QUESTIONED NEED FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION,
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DISAGREED WITH SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT

CONVENTION FOR INTERATIONAL ORGANIZATION PREPARED BY THE POE TO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LONDON CONFERENCE, AND RESERVED ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE ENTIRE REPORT OF THE POE. OTHER PARTICIPANTS GENERALLY WERE NOT PLEASED WITH U.S. ROLE WHICH THEY CONSIDERED UNCOOPERATIVE AND TO SOME EXTENT OBSTRUCTIONIST. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING BACKGROUND PAPER SETTING FORTH BRIEF SUMMARY OF POE MEETINGS AND OUR

RESERVATIONS REGARDING ITS WORK AND THE DRAFT CONVENTION.

U.S. PRESENTLY IS WORKING ON MARITIME SATELLITE POLICY STATEMENT, AND DEFINING ELEMENTS WE WOULD INSIST BE INCORPORATED IN ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH WE WOULD CONSIDER JOINING. FYI RECOGNIZING DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS EXISTING ON MANY ISSUES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE FLEXIBILITY IN U.S. POSITION THAT WAS NOT EVIDENT IN POE MEETINGS BUT THERE WILL REMAIN SOME ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE U.S. WILL TAKE A FIRM STAND. END FYI

U.S. TEAM PLANS TO VISIT ADDRESSEE POSTS IN LATE JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS U.S. VIEWS AND WHAT WE HOPE CAN BE ACHIEVED AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE. PRIOR TO VISIT DEPARTMENT WILL CABLE A LIST OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT POSTS TO THE VISIT AND REQUEST THAT THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM TEAM SHOULD MEET. MOST GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS AT POE MEETINGS WERE DRAWN FROM POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS, MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS, AND SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS. FEW GOVERNMENTS HAD REPRESENTATION FROM FOREIGN MINISTRIES. (A LIST OF POE PARTICIPANTS IS BEING POUCHED.) BECAUSE LONDON CONFERENCE WILL BE INTERGOVERNMENTAL, IT IS EXPECTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRIES WILL BE INVOLVED. THEREFORE, IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE BILATERAL TALKS BE COORDINATED THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THAT MINISTRY ITSELF PARTICIPATE. FYI IT IS HOPED ALSO THAT FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTRY OFFICIALS MAY SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY AND UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION THAN WAS THE CASE IN POE MEETINGS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT EUROPEANS WANT TO MEET WITH THE U.S. PRIOR TO APRIL. BRITISH EMBASSY HERE SOME WEEKS AGO SUGGESTED WE MEET WITH A GROUP OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO MEET WITH A EUROPEAN DELEGATION AND THUS RISK ENCOUNTERING A CONSOLIDATED FRONT. ANY SUGGESTION THAT A GROUP

MEETING SUBSTITUTE FOR SEPARATE BILATERAL TALKS SHOULD
BE DISCOURAGED. END FYI

IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS A TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR THE
U.S. TEAM WILL BE FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS FOR
COMMENT AND PLANNING. ON RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE
IF POSTS THINK IT APPROPRIATE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO
OBJECTION TO THEIR INFORMING THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT
THE U.S. PLANS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH TALKS.

FOR CANBERRA, OTTAWA, TOKYO: PLANS FOR BILATERAL
TALKS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL BE SUBJECT OF
SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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